

MARVEL

013

**SOULE
CAMUNCOLI
ORLANDINI
CURIEL**

STAR WARS™

DARTH VADER



STAR WARS
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013

BURNING SEAS

Part I

Three years have passed since the ascension of Emperor Palpatine, the formation of his great Galactic Empire, and the descent of former Jedi Knight Anakin Skywalker into his new form as twisted half-man, half-machine Darth Vader – Sith apprentice to Palpatine.

Vader and his squad of evil Force-wielding hunters, the Inquisitors, have had great success seeking out the few survivors of the purge that destroyed the noble Jedi Order just prior to Palpatine's rise. Few Jedi remain in the galaxy.

But now, a threat has arisen to the Emperor's still-new, still-vulnerable regime, and Vader must confront both his past and his present....

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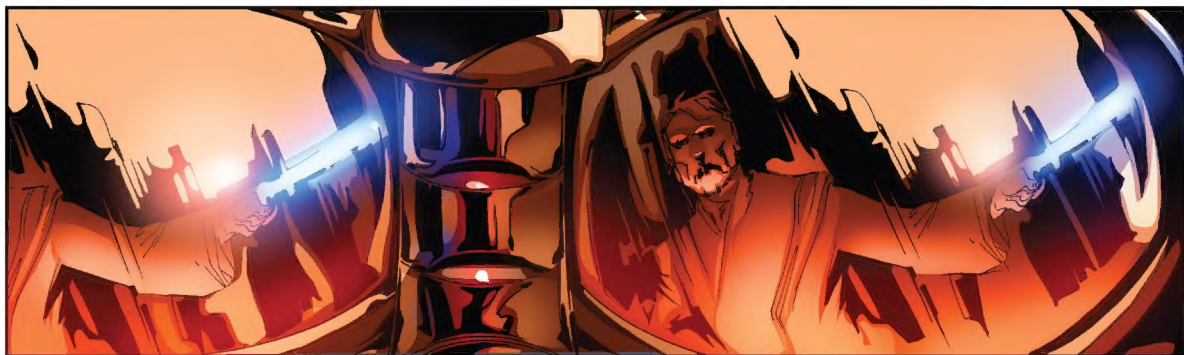
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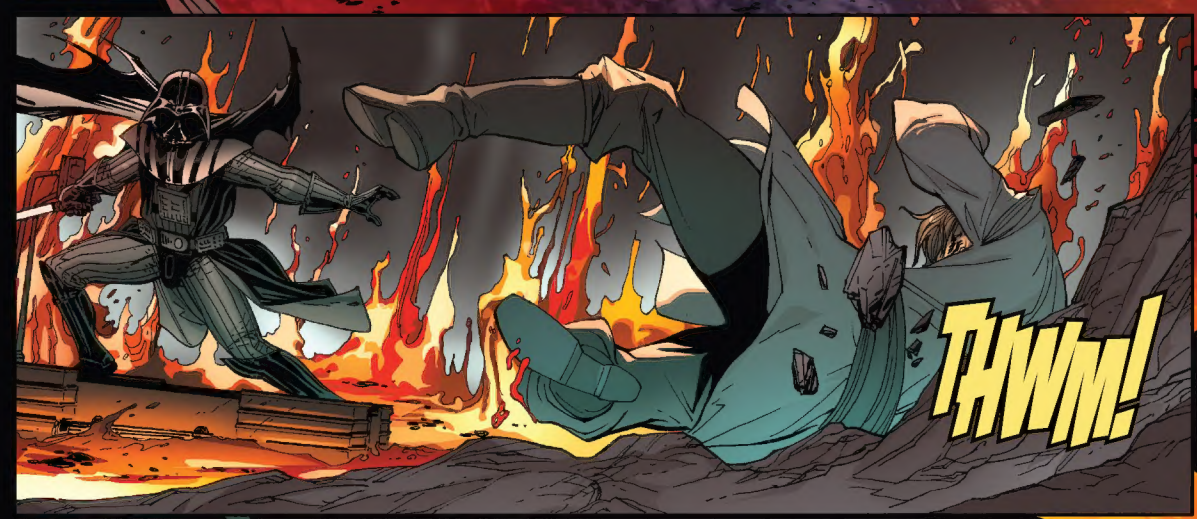
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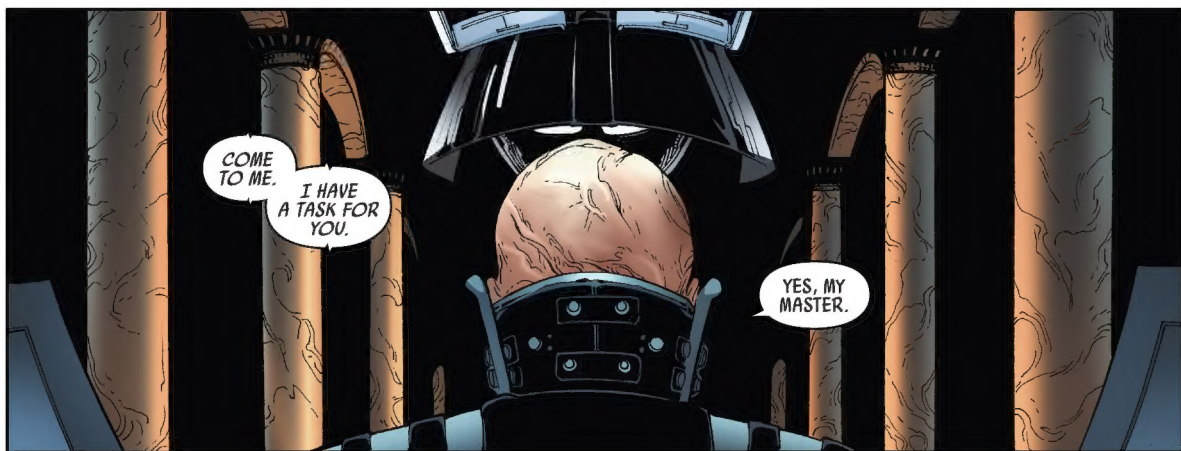
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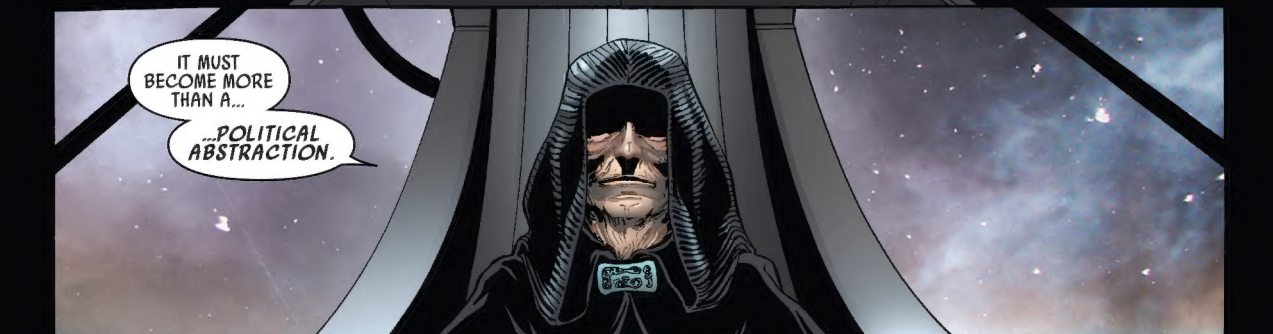




The Imperial Palace.



THE TIME
HAS COME FOR
THIS EMPIRE TO
EVOLVE.



IT MUST
BECOME MORE
THAN A...

...POLITICAL
ABSTRACTION.



IN THE THREE YEARS SINCE MY
ASCENSION, I HAVE ALLOWED
A CONVENIENT FICTION TO
PERSIST--THAT THE EMPIRE IS
MERELY AN EXTENSION OF
THE REPUBLIC.

THE IMPERIAL SENATE
REMAINS--AN ILLUSION OF MANY
VOICES COMING TOGETHER
TO GOVERN.

IN TRUTH,
THERE IS
ONLY ONE
VOICE.

MINE.



IT IS TIME
FOR THE GALAXY
TO UNDERSTAND
THIS.

HOW?



MON CALA.

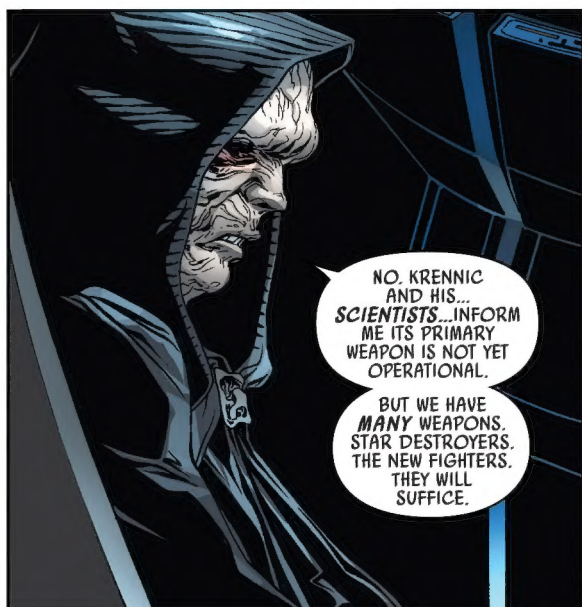
THEY MAY
SERVE WELL AS
AN EXAMPLE--THE
PRICE OF
DEFIANCE.



THE MILITARY
POWER OF THE
EMPIRE HAS GROWN
SIGNIFICANTLY IN
THESE PAST
YEARS.

IT IS TIME TO
REVEAL THAT
STRENGTH.

THE
STATION IS
READY?

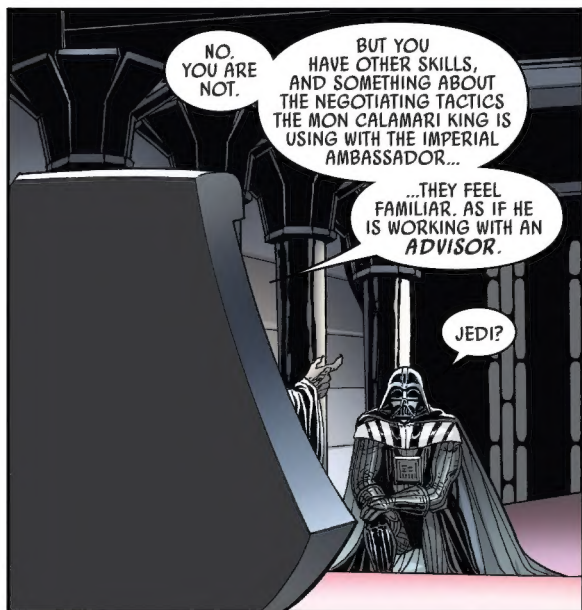


NO, KRENNIC
AND HIS...
SCIENTISTS...INFORM
ME ITS PRIMARY
WEAPON IS NOT YET
OPERATIONAL.

BUT WE HAVE
MANY WEAPONS.
STAR DESTROYERS.
THE NEW FIGHTERS.
THEY WILL
SUFFICE.



MY MASTER,
I WILL LEAD A MILITARY
MANEUVER AGAINST
MON CALA IF YOU WISH,
BUT I AM NO LONGER
A GENERAL.



NO.
YOU ARE
NOT.

BUT YOU
HAVE OTHER SKILLS,
AND SOMETHING ABOUT
THE MON CALAMARI KING IS
USING WITH THE IMPERIAL
AMBASSADOR...

...THEY FEEL
FAMILIAR. AS IF HE
IS WORKING WITH AN
ADVISOR.

JEDI?



PERHAPS.

TAKE YOUR
TEAM, LORD VADER.
LEARN THE TRUTH. IF
JEDI ARE PRESENT
ON MON CALA,
DESTROY THEM.

THE MILITARY
ASPECTS OF THIS
OPERATION...

Imperial Star Destroyer Sovereign.

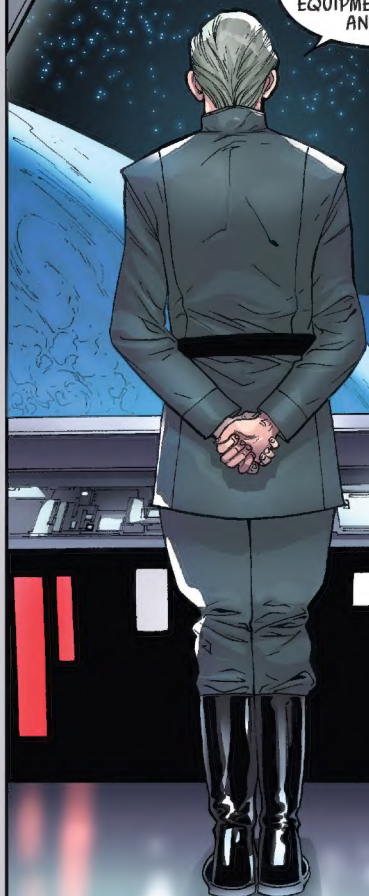
"...I HAVE
GIVEN TO
ANOTHER."

MON
CALA IS A
DIFFICULT
TARGET.



THE PLANET'S SURFACE IS
ALMOST ENTIRELY COVERED BY
DEEP WATER, WITH SIGNIFICANT
SETTLEMENTS AND DEFENSIVE
SYSTEMS BASED IN THE
UNDERSEA REGIONS.

THE SEAS
SERVE AS SOMETHING
OF A NATURAL SHIELD--
TRICKY TO NAVIGATE,
REQUIRING SPECIAL
EQUIPMENT, WEAPONS,
AND UNITS.



THAT SAID, THE PLANET'S REEFS
AND ISLANDS HOLD A FEW LARGE
CITIES, UTILIZED PRIMARILY FOR
OFFWORLD TRADING AND
DIPLOMACY.

IF AN
INVASION BECOMES
NECESSARY, WE WOULD
TAKE THESE REGIONS FIRST,
AND USE THEM AS STAGING
GROUNDS FOR AN AQUATIC
ASSAULT.

YOUR
TEAMS ARE
READY, MAJOR
RANTU?



ON YOUR COMMAND,
GOVERNOR TARKIN.
WE'VE BEEN RUNNING
SIMULATIONS EVER SINCE
WE ARRIVED IN
ORBIT.

AT THIS POINT, MY TROOPERS
ARE MORE FISH THAN
PEOPLE.

GOOD.

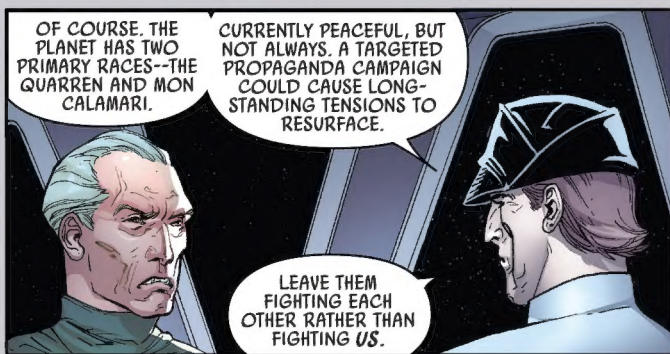
COMMANDER
JORDO--DISCUSS
NON-MILITARY
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
DISRUPTION.



OF COURSE. THE
PLANET HAS TWO
PRIMARY RACES--THE
QUARREN AND MON
CALAMARI.

CURRENTLY PEACEFUL, BUT
NOT ALWAYS. A TARGETED
PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN
COULD CAUSE LONG-
STANDING TENSIONS TO
RESURFACE.

LEAVE THEM
FIGHTING EACH
OTHER RATHER THAN
FIGHTING US.





I CAN HAVE MY TEAMS MOCK UP THE SORT OF HOLOS AND ARTWORK WE'D USE TO GET SOMETHING LIKE THAT GOING, IF YOU'D LIKE TO APPROVE THEM.

THAT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY, COMMANDER. I TRUST YOUR EXPERTISE.

EXCUSE ME. MAY I MENTION SOMETHING THAT SEEMS OBVIOUS?

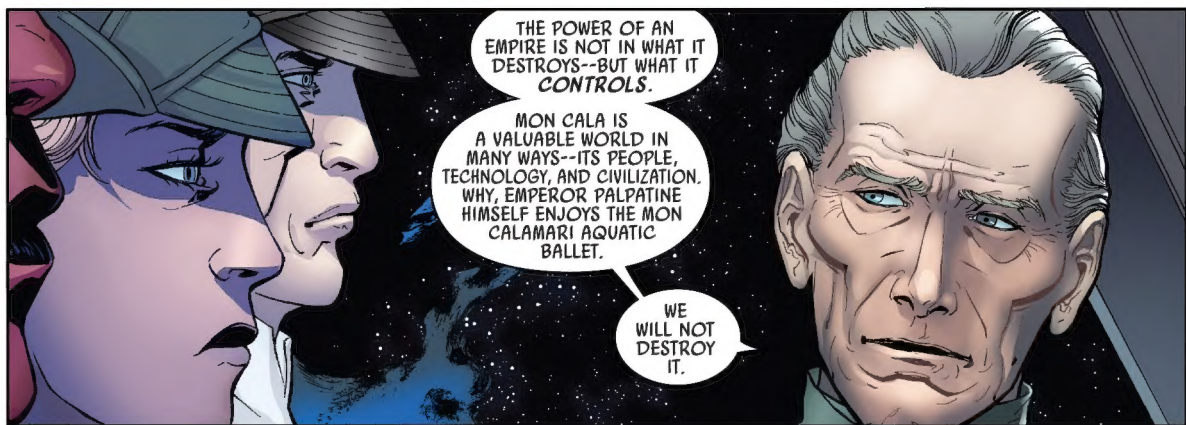


WE ARE STANDING ON A BATTLESHIP SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR ORBITAL BOMBARDMENT.

A FEW SHOTS FROM THE XX-9'S WOULD COOK THESE FINNERS NO MATTER HOW DEEP THEY HIDE.

WHY ARE WE PLANNING A COMPLEX, MULTI-STAGE ASSAULT?

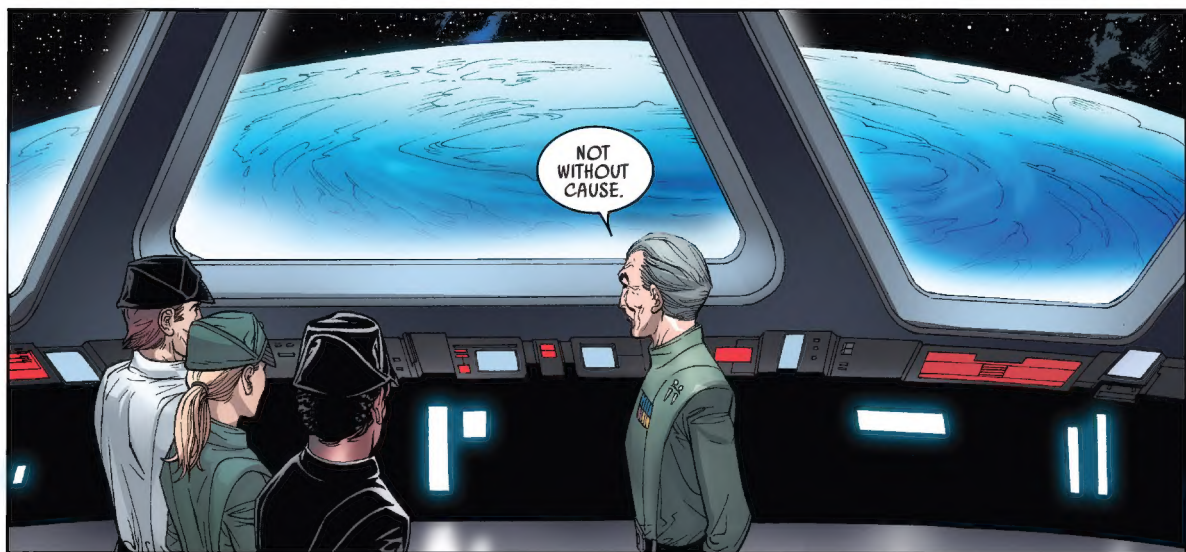
BECAUSE WE ARE AN EMPIRE, COLONEL BERGON.



THE POWER OF AN EMPIRE IS NOT IN WHAT IT DESTROYS--BUT WHAT IT CONTROLS.

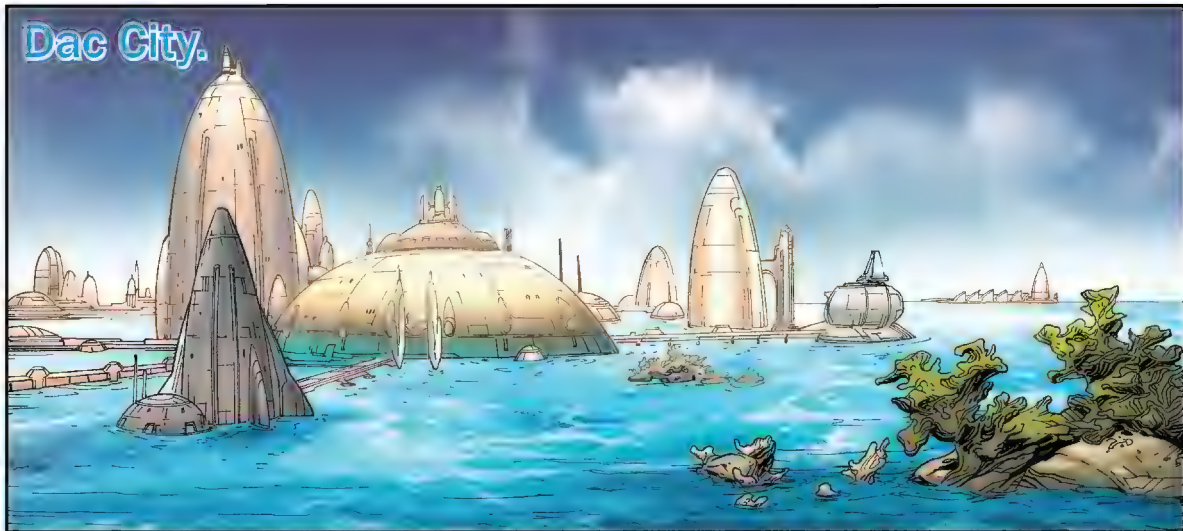
MON CALA IS A VALUABLE WORLD IN MANY WAYS--ITS PEOPLE, TECHNOLOGY, AND CIVILIZATION. WHY, EMPEROR PALPATINE HIMSELF ENJOYS THE MON CALAMARI AQUATIC BALLET.

WE WILL NOT DESTROY IT.



NOT WITHOUT CAUSE.

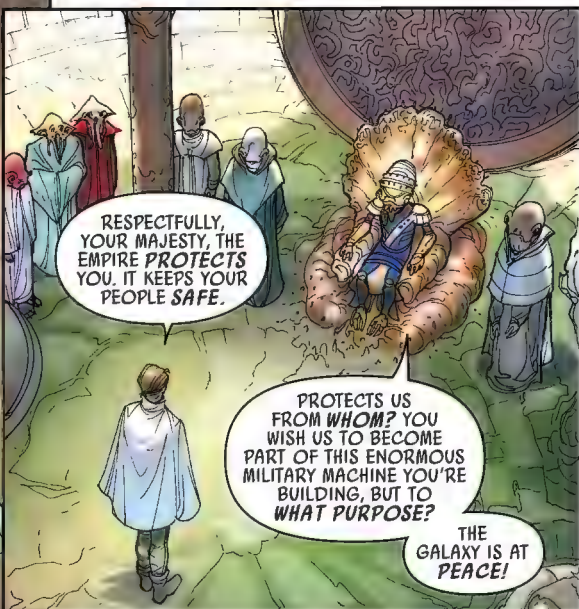
Dac City.



THE EMPIRE
THAT DEMANDS OUR
PLANET'S RESOURCES
AT A FRACTION OF THE
RATE AT WHICH THEY ARE
VALUED ON THE OPEN
MARKET, AMBASSADOR
TELVAR?

YOUR TRADE
PROPOSAL REQUIRES
US TO SELL OUR
KELPITE STRAND BEAMS
TO IMPERIAL SHIPYARDS
AT ANY QUANTITY
REQUIRED.

UNDER THIS
DEAL, YOU COULD
TAKE IT ALL, AND
LEAVE US IN
POVERTY!



RESPECTFULLY,
YOUR MAJESTY, THE
EMPIRE **PROTECTS**
YOU. IT KEEPS YOUR
PEOPLE **SAFE**.

PROTECTS US
FROM **WHOM**? YOU
WISH US TO BECOME
PART OF THIS ENORMOUS
MILITARY MACHINE YOU'RE
BUILDING, BUT TO
WHAT PURPOSE?

THE
GALAXY IS AT
PEACE!

KING LEE-CHAR,
I RESPECT YOUR POSITION,
AND I WILL TAKE YOUR CONCERNS
TO MY SUPERIORS. PERHAPS WE
COULD CONSIDER AN ANNUAL
CAP ON KELPITE SHIPMENTS
TO THE EMPIRE.

THAT SAID,
YOUR INFLEXIBILITY
DOES YOUR CAUSE
NO FAVORS.

WE ARE
ON THE SAME
SIDE, AFTER
ALL.



THE GIANT
BATTLESHIP YOU
PARKED IN ORBIT
AROUND OUR
PLANET SUGGESTS
OTHERWISE.

ENOUGH,
RADDUS.

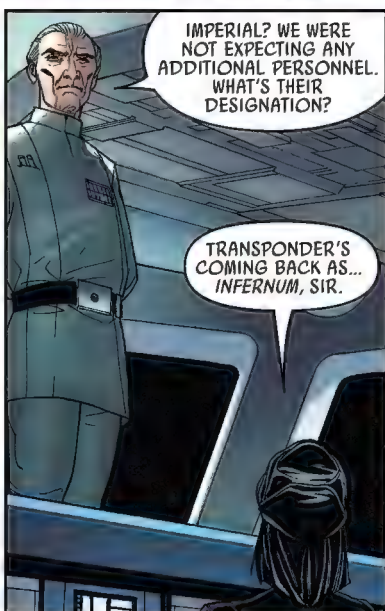


I WILL TAKE
MY LEAVE, YOUR
MAJESTY. I LOOK
FORWARD TO
RESUMING THESE
DISCUSSIONS
SOON.

I WILL SAY
IT AGAIN--WE
ARE ON THE
SAME SIDE.



LET US
HOPE IT ALWAYS
REMAINS
SO.





IS IT ME,
RADDUS, OR DID
THAT NOT GO
VERY WELL?

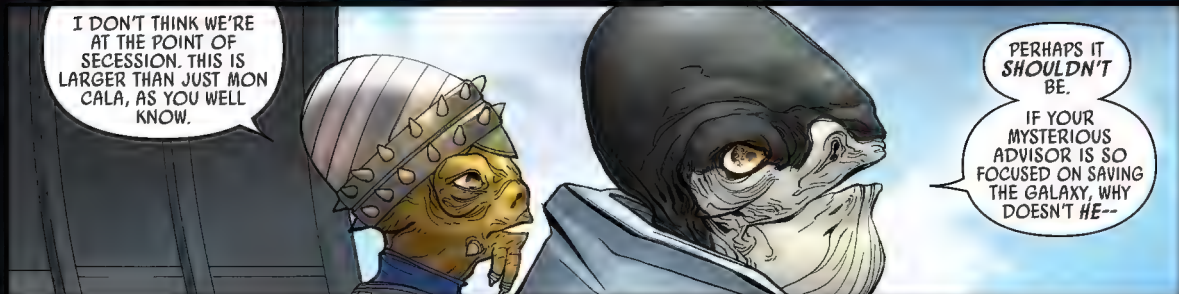
NO. NOT
WELL AT ALL,
MY KING.

THAT POMPOUS
DRYSKIN FOOL! HE
THINKS HE HOLDS ALL
THE CARDS. WE SHOULD
JUST SECEDE NOW.
THAT'D SHOW
PALPATINE.

"AFTER ALL, YOUR
MAJESTY, WE GET
NOTHING FROM THE
EMPIRE...AND THEY WANT
TO TAKE **EVERYTHING**
FROM US!"



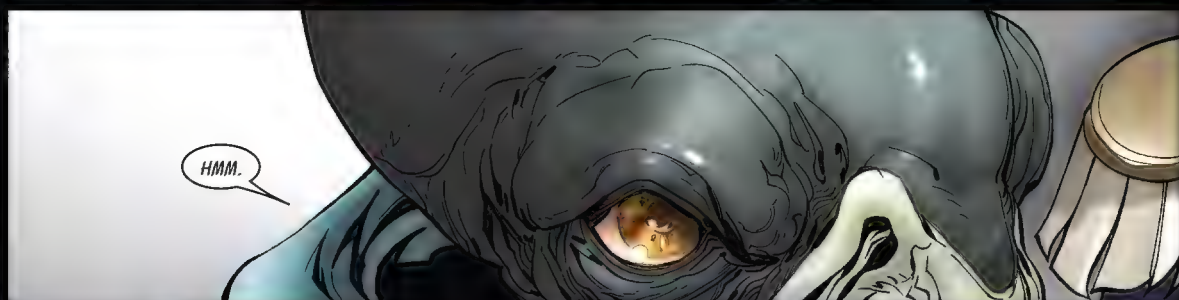
I DON'T THINK WE'RE
AT THE POINT OF
SECESSION. THIS IS
LARGER THAN JUST MON
CALA, AS YOU WELL
KNOW.



PERHAPS IT
SHOULDN'T
BE.

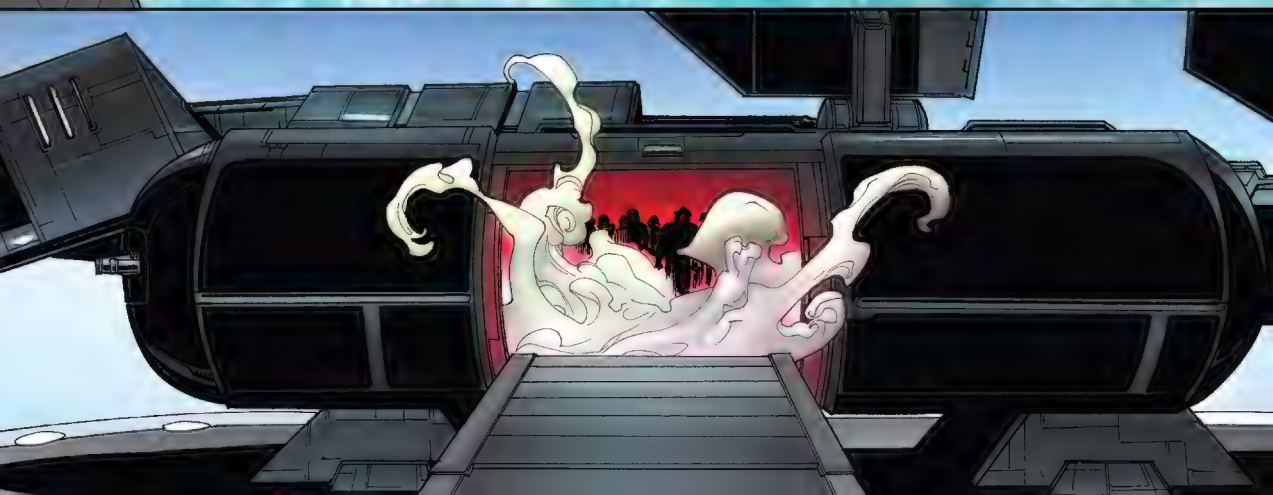
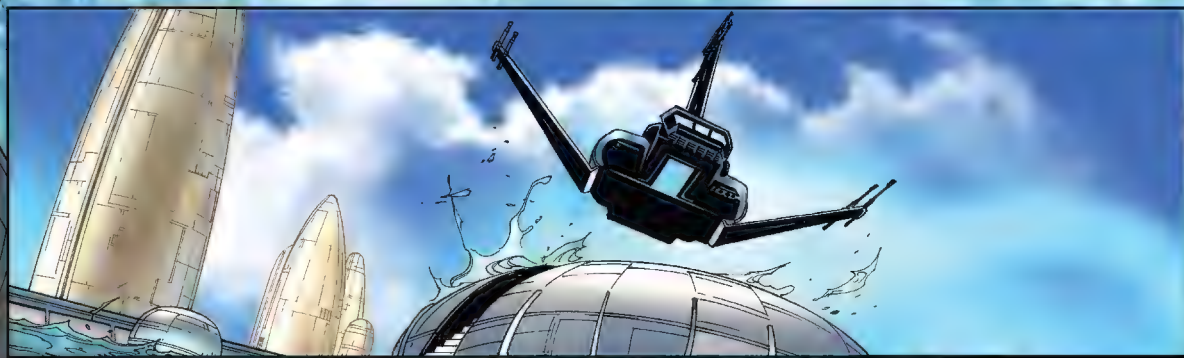
IF YOUR
MYSTERIOUS
ADVISOR IS SO
FOCUSED ON SAVING
THE GALAXY, WHY
DOESN'T HE--

HMM.

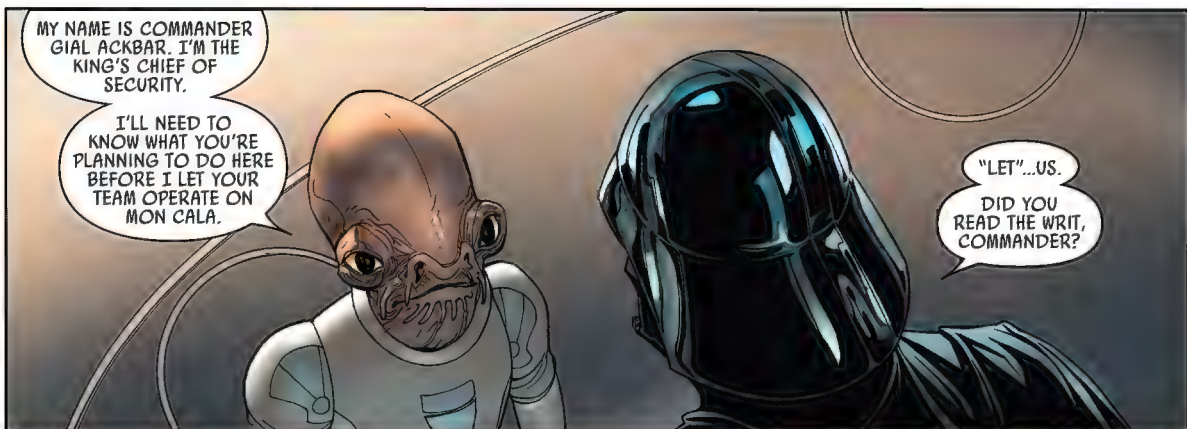


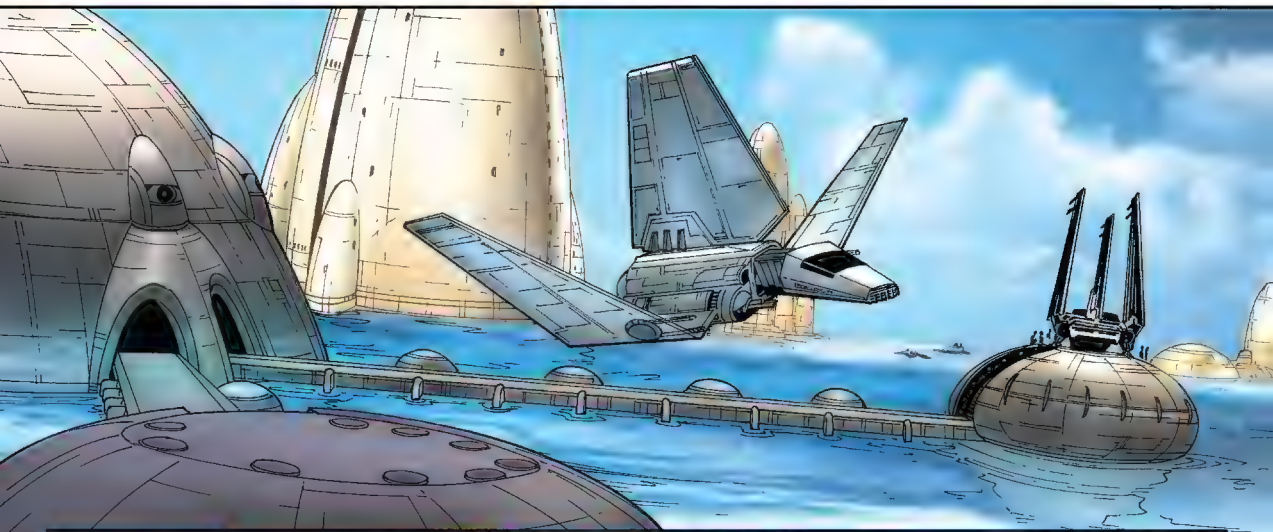
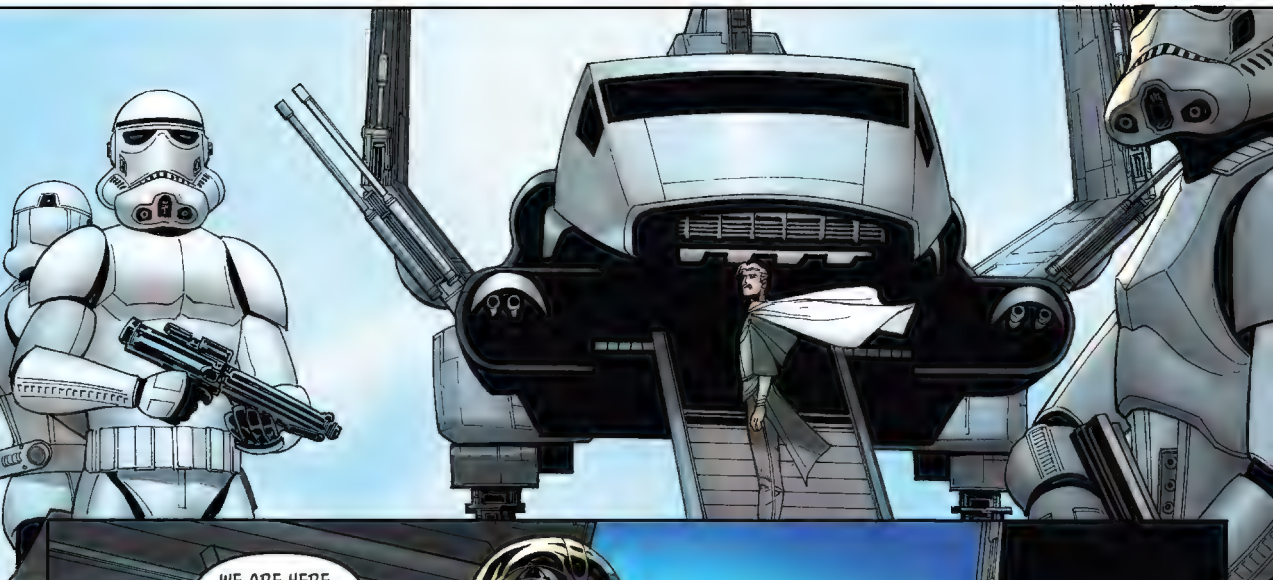
WHO IS
THAT?





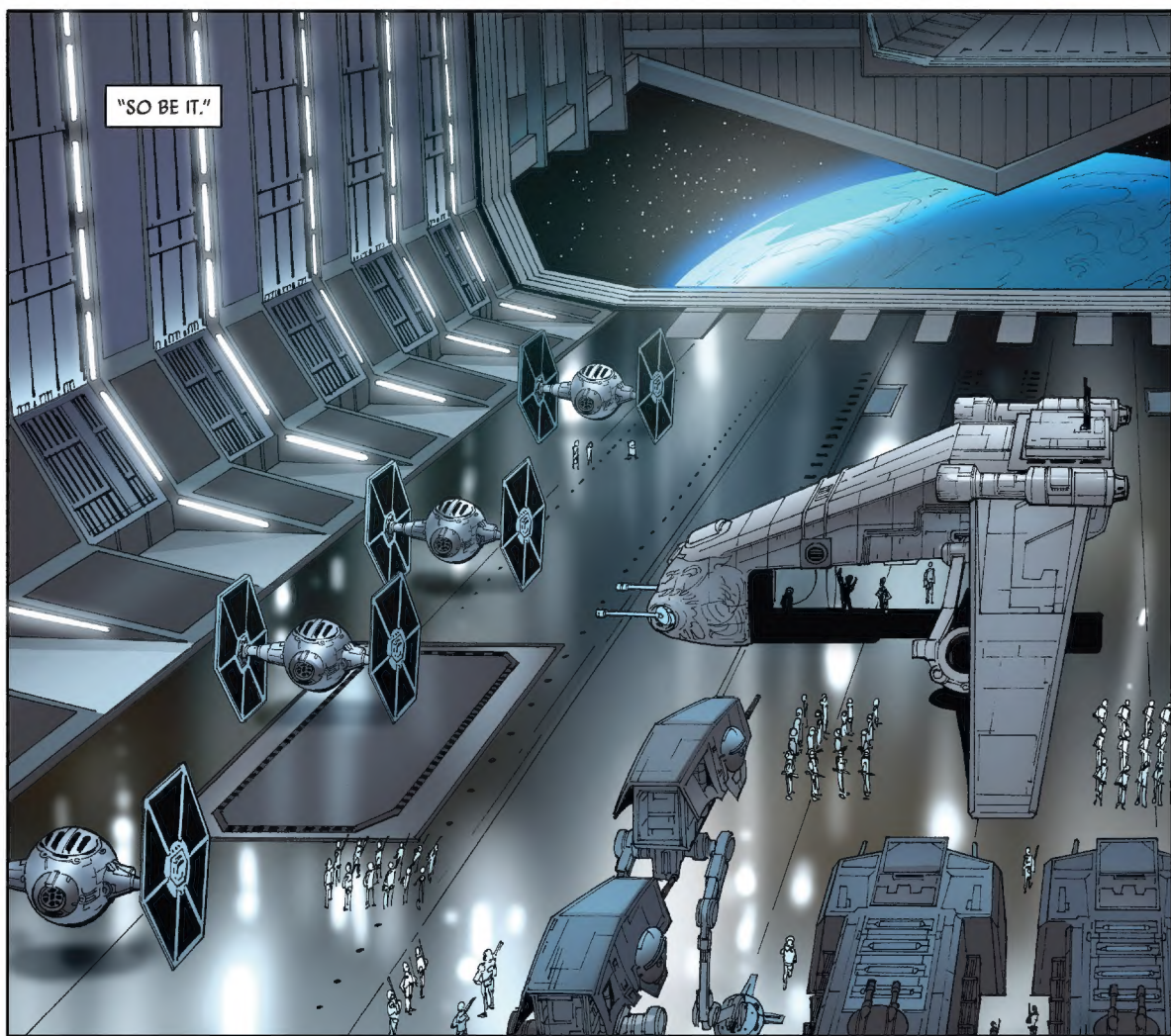
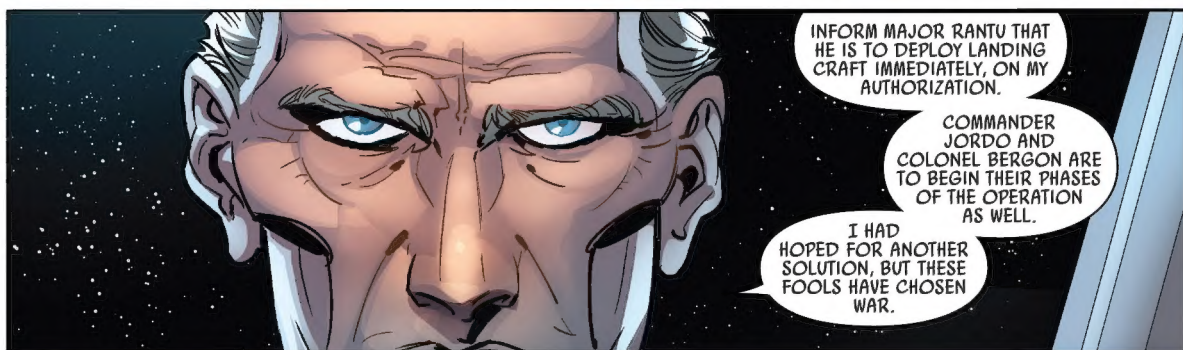
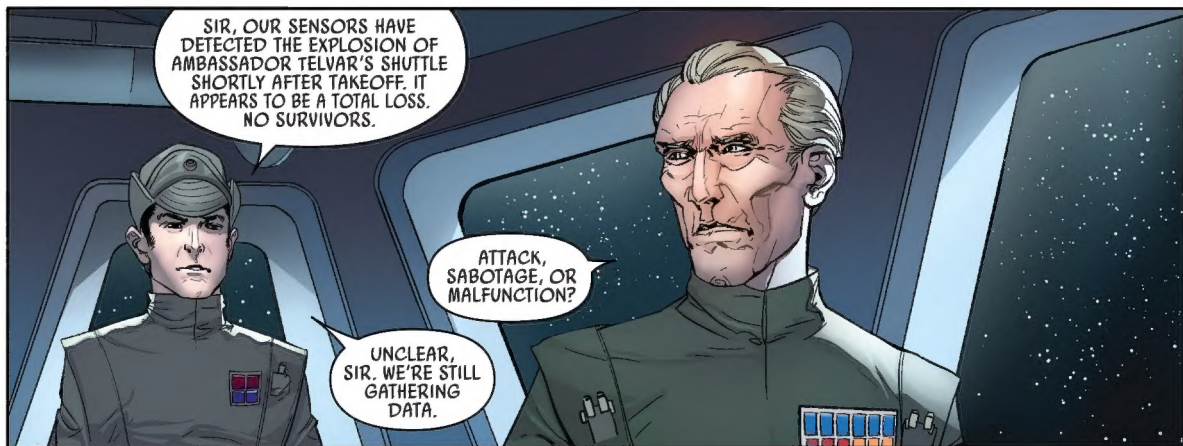






THO
OM!





ARE
YOU THERE,
MASTER
JEDI?

THEY'VE SENT
SHIPS...THE IMPERIALS...
THEY'RE LANDING AN
ARMY. THEY'RE
INVADING!

BE
CALM, YOUR
MAJESTY.

WE
ALWAYS KNEW
THIS WAS A
POSSIBILITY.

THAT'S NOT
ALL. THERE'S ANOTHER
GROUP. THE ONES YOU
ASKED ME TO WATCH
FOR.

INQUISITORS?
I CAN DEAL
WITH--

YES--AND
ANOTHER. TALL,
ARMORED, MASKED.
BLACK. ALL OVER BLACK.
ACKBAR DIDN'T GET HIS
NAME, BUT HE SAID
HE WAS--

I KNOW
HIS NAME.

SKYWALKER.

DARTH VADER

NEXT ISSUE:



Star Wars
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